

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An optical disk which is constructed in such  
a manner that an information recording layer formed  
on a substrate is covered with a light transmission  
layer and in which the range of the thickness and the  
refractive index of the light transmission layer is set  
so that aberration due to a deviation of the thickness  
and the refractive index of the light transmission  
layer from each standard value falls within the range  
of certain acceptable values, wherein

the thickness  $t$  of the light transmission layer  
is set within the range of  $f(n) - t_1 \leq t \leq f(n) + t_2$ ,  
employing function  $f(n)$  of the refractive index  $n$  of  
the light transmission layer and constants  $t_1, t_2$   
determined based on an acceptable value of aberration  
in the light transmission layer,

the refractive index of the light transmission  
layer is set within the range of 1.45 to 1.75,

the numerical aperture of a lens emitting laser  
light which is incident onto the light transmission  
layer is set to 0.65, and

the function  $f(n)$  is shown by

$$f(n) = \frac{A_1 \times n^3}{n^2 - 1} \times \frac{n^2 + A_2}{n^2 + A_3} \quad (\mu\text{m})$$

employing constants  $A_1, A_2, A_3$ .

2. The optical disk according to claim 1, wherein  
the refractive index of the light transmission layer is

set within the range of 1.5 to 1.7.

3. The optical disk according to claim 1, wherein  
the wavelength of the laser light which is incident  
onto the light transmission layer is set within the  
range of 395 to 415 nm.  
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4. The optical disk according to claim 1, wherein  
the constant  $A_1$  is 0.26200, constant  $A_2$  is -0.32400,  
and constant  $A_3$  is 0.00595.

5. The optical disk according to claim 1,  
10 wherein minimum values of the constants  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$  are  
substantially set to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

6. The optical disk according to claim 1, wherein  
the constants  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$  are substantially set to 13  $\mu\text{m}$ .

7. The optical disk according to claim 1, wherein  
15 predetermined positions on curved lines that  $f(n) - t_1$   
and  $f(n) + t_2$  show are sampled, and an area encircled  
by connecting each sample point by means of straight  
lines is set as the range of the thickness  $t$  of the  
light transmission layer.

20 8. An optical disk which is constructed in such  
a manner that a plurality of information recording  
layers are laminated by sandwiching a space layer  
having a light transmission property therebetween on  
a substrate and are covered with a light transmission  
25 layer, wherein

the thickness  $t$  of the light transmission layer is  
set to  $f(n) - t_1$  or more, employing function  $f(n)$  of

the refractive index n of the light transmission layer and constants t<sub>1</sub>, t<sub>2</sub> determined based on an acceptable value of aberration in the layer comprising the light transmission layer, the information recording layers,  
5 and the space layer,

the sum of thicknesses of the light transmission layer, the space layer, and the information recording layer excluding the information recording layer which is closest to the substrate is set to f(n) + t<sub>2</sub> or  
10 less,

the refractive index of the light transmission layer is set within the range of 1.45 to 1.75,

the refractive index of the space layer is set within the range of +0.0 to -0.15 of the refractive  
15 index of the light transmission layer,

the numerical aperture of a lens emitting laser light which is incident onto the light transmission layer is set to 0.65, and

20 the function f(n) is shown by

$$f(n) = \frac{A_1 \times n^3}{n^2 - 1} \times \frac{n^2 + A_2}{n^2 + A_3} \text{ } (\mu\text{m})$$

employing constants A<sub>1</sub>, A<sub>2</sub>, A<sub>3</sub>.

9. The optical disk according to claim 8, wherein the refractive index of the light transmission layer is  
25 set within the range of 1.5 to 1.7.

10. The optical disk according to claim 8, wherein the wavelength of the laser light which is incident

onto the light transmission layer is set within the range of 395 to 415 nm.

11. The optical disk according to claim 8, wherein the constant  $A_1$  is 0.26200, constant  $A_2$  is -0.32400, and constant  $A_3$  is 0.00595.

5 12. The optical disk according to claim 8, wherein minimum values of the constants  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$  are substantially set to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

10 13. The optical disk according to claim 8, wherein the constants  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$  are substantially set to 22  $\mu\text{m}$ .

14. The optical disk according to claim 8, wherein predetermined positions on a curved line that  $f(n) - t_1$  shows are sampled so that the thickness that a straight line connecting each sample point shows is set to 15 a minimum value of the thickness  $t$  of the light transmission layer in a corresponding refractive index, and

20 predetermined positions on a curved line that  $f(n) + t_2$  shows are sampled so that the thickness that a straight line connecting each sample point shows is set to a maximum value of the thickness of the sum of the light transmission layer in a corresponding refractive index, the space layer, and the information recording layer excluding the information recording 25 layer which is closest to the substrate.

15. An optical disk apparatus comprising:  
a semiconductor laser element emitting laser light

whose wavelength is 395 to 415 nm; and

a processing unit allowing the laser light from the semiconductor laser element to be emitted to the optical disk to perform recording processing and  
5 reproducing processing, for an optical disk which is constructed in such a manner that an information recording layer formed on a substrate is covered with a light transmission layer and in which the range of the thickness and the refractive index of the light transmission layer is set so that aberration due to  
10 a deviation of the thickness and the refractive index of the light transmission layer from each standard value falls within the range of certain acceptable values, wherein

15 the thickness  $t$  of the light transmission layer is set within the range of  $f(n) - t_1 \leq t \leq f(n) + t_2$ , employing function  $f(n)$  of the refractive index  $n$  of the light transmission layer and constants  $t_1, t_2$  determined based on an acceptable value of aberration  
20 in the light transmission layer,

the refractive index of the light transmission layer is set within the range of 1.45 to 1.75,

the numerical aperture of a lens emitting laser light which is incident onto the light transmission  
25 layer is set to 0.65, and

the function  $f(n)$  is shown by

$$f(n) = \frac{A_1 \times n^3}{n^2 - 1} \times \frac{n^2 + A_2}{n^2 + A_3} \quad (\mu\text{m})$$

employing constants  $A_1$ ,  $A_2$ ,  $A_3$ .

16. The optical disk apparatus according to  
claim 15, wherein the refractive index of the light  
transmission layer is set within the range of 1.5  
5 to 1.7.

17. An optical disk apparatus comprising:  
a semiconductor laser element emitting laser light  
whose wavelength is 395 to 415 nm; and  
10 a processing unit allowing the laser light from  
the semiconductor laser element to be emitted to the  
optical disk to perform recording processing and  
reproducing processing, for an optical disk which is  
constructed in such a manner that a plurality of  
15 information recording layers are laminated by  
sandwiching a space layer having a light transmission  
property therebetween on a substrate and are covered  
with a light transmission layer, wherein  
the thickness  $t$  of the light transmission layer is  
20 set to  $f(n) - t_1$  or more, employing function  $f(n)$  of  
the refractive index  $n$  of the light transmission layer  
and constants  $t_1$ ,  $t_2$  determined based on an acceptable  
value of aberration in the layer comprising the light  
transmission layer, the information recording layers,  
25 and the space layer,

the sum of thicknesses of the light transmission  
layer, the space layer, and the information recording

layer excluding the information recording layer which is closest to the substrate is set to  $f(n) + t_2$  or less,

5       the refractive index of the light transmission layer is set within the range of 1.45 to 1.75,

      the refractive index of the space layer is set within the range of  $\pm 0.1$  of the refractive index of the light transmission layer,

10      the numerical aperture of a lens emitting laser light which is incident onto the light transmission layer is set to 0.65, and

      the function  $f(n)$  is shown by

$$f(n) = \frac{A_1 \times n^3}{n^2 - 1} \times \frac{n^2 + A_2}{n^2 + A_3} \quad (\mu\text{m})$$

15      employing constants  $A_1, A_2, A_3$ .

18. The optical disk apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the refractive index of the light transmission layer is set within the range of 1.5 to 1.7.